

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the present amendments and the following remarks. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 14, 18-20, 24, 28 and 29 are amended. As a result, upon entry of this amendment claims 1-30 are pending and at issue in this case, with claims 1, 2, 8, 14, 21, 24 and 28 being independent claims. It is believed that no fees in addition to the extension of time fee transmitted herewith are due for the consideration of this paper. However, if additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 13-2855. A copy of this paper is enclosed.

Amendments to the Claims

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended above are supported by the application as originally filed in the Patent Office on July 31, 2001, that the amended claims satisfy the written description requirement and the other requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and that no new matter is being added. Initially, claims 19 and 20 are amended for consistency with the amendment to claim 14 previously filed on March 30, 2004, substituting “drive actuator” for “means for actuating.” Claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite that the one-way tensioning mechanism engages one of the cords to prevent movement of the cord in either the direction of the force applied to the cord by the spring motor or the direction of the force of the weight of the bottom rail and accumulated portion of the window covering supported by the cord, but to not prevent movement of the cord in the opposite direction. Claims 14, 24 and 28 are amended in a similar manner to more clearly recite that the means for providing a resistant force, the pulley and the tensioner, respectively, prevent movement of corresponding cords in one direction. Claims 6, 18 and 29 are amended for consistency with the amendments to the independent claims from which they depend. The amendments to claims 1, 6, 14, 18, 24, 28 and 29 are supported by the application as originally filed at least at FIG. 2 and at page 10, line 11 through page 11, line 12, which describe a blind 12 having a drive actuator 20 coupled to the cords 30, 32, and a one-way tensioning mechanism 24 coupled to cord 30 preventing movement of the cord 30 in one direction, but not preventing movement of the cord 30 in the opposite direction. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1, 6, 14, 18, 24, 28 and 29 do not present

new matter and do not raise new issues, and respectfully requests entry of the present amendments to claims 1, 6, 14, 18-20, 24, 28 and 29 and consideration of the claims as amended.

Consideration of Previously-Filed Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed with the Patent Office on October 9, 2002 and April 19, 2004 which have not to date been indicated as having been considered by the Examiner. Copies of the stamped post cards accompanying the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements (Exhibit A) and a printout of the Image File Wrapper portion of the public PAIR webpage showing entries for the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements and corresponding foreign patent and non-patent references (Exhibit B) are provided as confirmation of the receipt of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements by the Patent Office. Consideration of the references cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections

The Examiner has indicated in the Office action that claims 2-5, 8-13 and 21-23 are allowed, and that claims 6, 7, 17-20, 24-27, 29 and 30 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 6, 7, 14-20 and 24-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite, and claims 1, 14-16, 19, 20 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,375). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Regarding the indefiniteness rejections, as discussed above, independent claims 1, 14, 24 and 28 are amended to more clearly recite that the recited mechanisms engage one of the cords to prevent movement of the cord in one direction and not prevent motion of the cord in the opposite direction. As amended, even though forces such as friction between pulleys and their supports, friction between the cords and the pulleys, rotational inertia and the like as discussed by the Examiner may be present to resist movement of the cord in the opposite direction, these forces are not sufficient to prevent movement of the cord in the opposite direction. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, 7, 14-20 and 24-30 are sufficiently

definite to distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention in view of the present amendments, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 14-20 and 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 14-6, 19, 20 and 28 in view of Palmer, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments to claims 1, 14 and 28. Applicant respectfully submits that the Palmer reference does not disclose or suggest a mechanism engaging a cord of a cordless blind to prevent movement of the cord in one direction and to not prevent movement of the cord in the opposite direction. Regarding the embodiment of Figs. 5-7 of Palmer, a brake mechanism 60 engages the cord spool 64 to which the cord is attached and wound, but does not engage the cord to prevent movement in one direction. Moreover, Palmer does not appear to suggest directly engaging the cord with the one-way brake mechanism 60 or similar mechanism that prevents movement in one direction. Regarding the embodiment of Figs. 10-12 of Palmer, a cord 18 is engaged by a roller mechanism 90 having a stationary roller 92 and spring biased moveable roller 94 with the cord 18 disposed therebetween. As configured, the roller mechanism 90 either applies the same force in both directions when the moveable roller 94 is biased toward the stationary roller 92 (Figs. 10 and 11), or does not apply a force preventing movement in either direction when an operator moves the moveable roller 94 away from the stationary roller 92 (Fig. 12). Consequently, the roller mechanism 90 does not operate to prevent movement of the cord in one direction and not prevent movement of the cord in the opposite direction as recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 28. It is clear that the prior art must make a suggestion of or provide an incentive for the claimed combination of elements for the examiner to be able to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See, *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1446 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App. 1985). Because Palmer fails to disclose or suggest a mechanism in a cordless blind engaging a cord to prevent the cord from moving in one direction and not prevent the cord from moving in the opposite direction, it follows that Palmer cannot render claims 1, 14 and 28, and the claims depending therefrom, either anticipated or obvious.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and allowance of the currently pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this

application towards allowance, she is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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January 11, 2005

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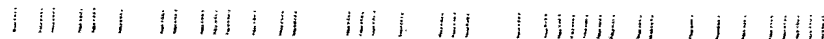
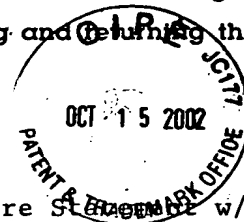
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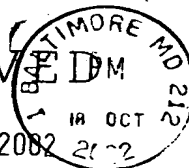
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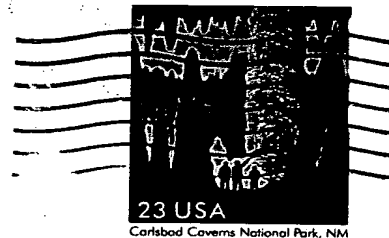
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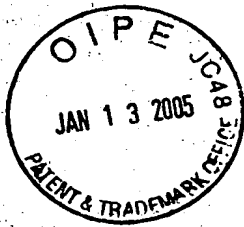
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09/918,905 One-way tensioning mechanism for cordless blind

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